

## WAR THE SALVATION OF ITALIAN PEOPLE

Italy, Bankrupt When Conflict Started, Is in Good Condition Now.

ARE HEAVILY TAXED

Banks Come to Country's Aid, However, and Relieve Financial Strain.

This is the last story on the war's effects on the various countries now fighting. Tomorrow a new series starts. It will tell under what conditions each country will accept peace. Carl W. Ackerman, United Press Staff Correspondent at Berlin, in the first story will tell under what conditions Germany will accept peace.

### WAR'S EFFECTS IN ITALY

By JOHN H. HEARLEY  
(United Press Staff Correspondent)  
ROME, Aug. 26.—Italy, eighteen months ago was commercially and in-

dustrially bound hand and foot to Germany. War unloosed the bonds. With the help of English finances, Italy today is working out her own commercial salvation.

When war began in 1914, millions of dollars in German money suddenly were withdrawn from Italian enterprises and the tourist trade, Italy's chief source of wealth, stopped. A national moratorium became necessary. The bank of Italy and other patriotic institutions saved the country from bankruptcy.

Readjustment was in progress when war between Italy and Austria was declared. A general war tax levy was prepared. Even the household piano did not escape. On all checks and receipts a recent levy of two cents up has been placed.

### Munition Factories Built.

With munition factories, Italy became dotted. They were a preparation for war and its aftermath, for they are so put up that they may be converted into factories of peace. An arms factory near Naples will become a dye works. Other plants will become machine shops. New Italy dreams of real industrial greatness within ten years.

The sudden elimination of German imports threw a financial burden on the Italian people. Many things increased in price, but the advances

served to bring out the inventive genius of the Latin race. Drugs, clothes, and other products looked upon as exclusively German, began to be made at home.

Nothing better illustrates Germany's industrial invasion of Italy than its manufacture of typically Italian goods. For centuries the Romans and Florentines have been artists in hand made mosaic floors and ceilings and dress ornaments. The Germans invented machines for such manufacture at home. German-made mosaics for years have been sold in Italy far more cheaply than the Italian product could be.

The government is encouraging Italian industry. Associations to make Italians own Italy, are everywhere. "Italy First" is the new motto. Recently all the Italian traveling men organized into one big association.

### Water Power Cost Decreases.

The cost of water power has decreased during the war. Electricity for manufacturing purposes has gone down. Having no coal now is working an electrical revolution in Italy. Electricity even for domestic heating, lighting and cooking seems certain.

Italy's domestic life has been much affected by the conflict, especially in the smaller villages of the north and south. At first, speculation in necessities was prevalent. Unnecessary suffering was occasioned by get-rich-quick dealers and producers. Municipalities have done much to stop such abuses. Municipal shops have been opened everywhere. These sell necessities generally at the prices which could be obtained before the war. First service and preference are given to the poorer classes.

In the municipally owned stores milk sells for eight cents a pint. Private dealers ask ten cents. Municipal bread and the private stock cost about the same amount. The common or war variety is sold at four cents a pound, while the luxury kind brings six cents a pound. The bread is all of a brownish puffy sort, in which water is generally used. White flour is allowed only in the making of cake.

### Meat Is Very High.

Meats are especially high. A pound of the best cut beef costs thirty-six cents in the municipal stores and fifty cents in the private places. Except in the case of milk the municipal supplies are always inferior to the private.

Practically all cooking is now done by gas. Coal has become the rarest luxury. Anthracite, which before the war brought \$13 a ton, now sells for \$10. Even coke has jumped from \$9 to \$32 a ton.

Wearing apparel also has increased in cost. The price of dresses for women and suits for men are at least twenty per cent higher now than before the war.

The rich generally have been the hardest hit, especially those with holdings in Austria and Germany. In many instances war has robbed them of at least half their fortunes. Automobiles have had to be given up and servants reduced in numbers. Even hands that had never known work suddenly have had to toil.

### Prices Are Increasing.

A middle class family of six, living on \$2 a day before the war, now must spend almost \$3. This expenditure will provide daily supplies of wine and vegetables and meat once a day. Clothing absolutely necessary generally is reckoned in this outlay, but house rental usually is not.

In many ways the poor have suffered materially the least by the war. The beggars are the single exception. Their suffering is pathetic. They have been accustomed to look mostly to the traveling public for alms, but no traveling public touches Italy.

The poor, however, generally are in good spirits. They live for the most part on wine and vegetables, which have increased little or not at all in price. Moreover, the effect of the absence of fathers, husbands and sons at the front is partly counter-balanced by the wartime work of the women and children at home. Civic and military organizations pay them unusually well for making clothing and other articles, necessary for the soldiers in the field.

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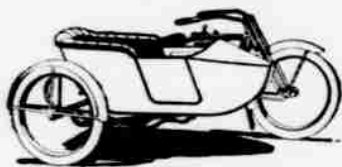
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